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### **December: Safe Toys and Gifts**

Before buying a child their favorite toys, consider the safety and age-range of the toys. To prevent injuries, choose toys that are safe for their age and that are suited for their skills.

#### [TOY SAFETY](#)

#### [SHOPPING TIPS - SAFE AND AGE APPROPRIATE TOYS](#)

#### [INJURY PREVENTION](#)

Guidelines for choosing safe toys for all ages:

- Look for toys that have a solid design and sturdy construction - toys that won't break, crush, or be pulled apart easily.
- Check to see if the instructions are clear and concise.
- Read the labels to see if there are any fire hazards
- Look for labels that assure you the toys have passed a safety inspection - ADTM means the toy has met the American Society for Testing and Materials standards.

Tips for buying toys for children with special needs:

- Choose toys that may appeal to different senses - sound, movement, texture.
- Consider interactive toys.
- Think about the size of the toy, and what position the child would need to be in to play with it.

Toys to avoid:

- Toys with small parts and sharp edges and points.
- Guns and other toys that shoot flying objects.
- Crayons and markers that are not labeled NONTOXIC.
- Toys with ropes and cords.
- Electric toys with heating elements.

Toys imported from other countries and older toys may contain high levels of lead in paint or plastic. Because children will at some point put their hands in their mouths after playing, it is good to be knowledgeable about lead in toys. If you think your child has been exposed to lead - contact their primary care provider immediately.

#### [TOY RECALLS](#)

#### [LEAD POISONING INFORMATION](#)

#### [LEAD POISONING PREVENTION](#)